

TODAY AND TOMORROW



2006 Annual Report



CONNECTICUT
Commission on Aging

Advocating for Older Adults of Today and Tomorrow

Assessing the status of older adults...

First Wave of Boomers Turns 60 in '06

According to the
U.S. Census Bureau:

- The oldest of the baby boomers—the 78.2-million culture-changing Americans born between 1946 and 1964—turned 60 during 2006.
- In Connecticut, boomers represent one third of the state's total population—about one million people. Boomers comprise at least 30 percent of the population in 16 other states.
- Nearly 8,000 people celebrated their 60th birthday every day in 2006—that's about 330 every hour. Those celebrating included our two most recent presidents—George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.
- Approximately 57.8 million baby boomers between the ages of 66 and 84 will be living in 2030, according to the U.S. Administration on Aging. Of that total 54.9 percent will be women.
- 605 million people were 60 or older in 2000. That number will soar to two billion by 2050, when the world's population of older persons will be larger than the population of children (to 14 years) for the first time in human history. (U.S. Administration on Aging)
- The poverty rate for boomers was 7.3 percent in 2000—lower than any other segment of the population.
- Baby boomers have a higher level of education than any other generation before them—88.8 percent have completed high school and 28.5 percent have at least a Bachelor's degree.
- Baby boomers can expect increased health care spending as they age. For example, in 2004 the average annual expenditure on health care for people 45 to 54—the heart of the baby boom generation—was \$2,695. People 55 to 64 spent \$3,262 in 2004 and those 65 and over spent \$3,899. (U.S. Department of Labor)



About the Connecticut Commission on Aging

History

- The Connecticut Commission on Aging was created in 1993 by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly under section 17b-420 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
 - The Commission and staff were charged to advocate on behalf of older adults on issues and programs of concern including, but not limited to, health care, nutrition, housing, employment, transportation, legal assistance and economic security. The Commission was placed organizationally within the Department of Social Services for administrative purposes only.
 - In 2005, recognizing the growing need for a fully thriving, purely independent agency solely devoted to advocacy for older adults, more than 50 legislators from both parties and in both chambers served as co-sponsors for Senate Bill 967 (to become Public Act 05-77). The legislation moved the Commission to the legislative branch of government (with similar commissions) and also expanded its board membership for greater citizen involvement. In the same year, Public Act 05-251 expanded the Commission's staff and provided for an adequate budget.
 - With its offices now located in the legislative branch within the State Capitol, the Commission is better positioned to serve as an objective, credible resource for policymakers and stakeholders on a wide range of complex and interrelated aging issues.
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Our Mission

The mission of the Connecticut Commission on Aging is to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's present and future generations of older adults and to serve as an objective, credible source of information on issues affecting them.

The Commission:

- Works directly with the state legislature, the executive branch and others to shape effective public policy.
- Proactively advocates for and at the General Assembly's direction, directs comprehensive studies on issues, such as long-term care, that impact older adults and at times persons with disabilities.
- Develops and promotes legislative proposals and drafts and presents testimony before the General Assembly.
- Comments on state agency programs and works to foster a more effective, efficient and coordinated delivery system.
- Reviews and comments on the policies and procedures, the budget and the State Plan on Aging of the State Unit on Aging within the Department of Social Services.
- Analyzes demographic, economic and service delivery trends in aging.
- Identifies and researches emerging issues.
- Proactively pursues innovative and effective strategies that help improve older adults' quality of life.
- Issues an annual report.
- Serves on committees and works with diverse groups on the inter-relationship of issues that affect older adults, their families and others.
- Takes a leadership role in forming public/private-sector partnerships such as the Connecticut Elder Action Network and serves as the chair and manager for the Long-Term Care Advisory Council.
- Collaborates with the Long-Term Care Planning Committee on the creation of the State Long-Term Care Plan.
- Provides technical assistance to interested parties on major initiatives.
- Conducts statewide forums and focus groups.
- Raises public awareness of issues affecting older citizens by developing and disseminating information about laws, programs, services, organizations and resources that assist older adults.
- Created and maintains, with the Office of Policy and Management and other public and private sector partners, a dynamic source of information and resources through the Long-Term Care website.
- Responds to public queries.

Dear Governor Rell, Members of the Legislature and Chief Elected Officials,

Edna lives alone in her modest two-bedroom ranch in northern Connecticut.

She welcomes me in and wants me to stay for the day. If only I could.

Edna's eyes sparkle, enjoying the company, as she pours some tea. I find out much later that 82-year-old Edna hasn't had new eyeglasses for nearly a decade. I wonder how much her eyes

have changed and how it affects her daily life.

I know that Edna is behind in her property taxes and drives a 1984 model car. Edna admits that her car needs new brakes. I say she needs a safe car to drive, period.

Each working day, for the past 11 years, I have traveled from kitchen table to kitchen table around the state. These

are the very same well-worn tables where the kids were raised – and where I hear true stories like Edna's.

John and Rita need a new furnace. Dorothy can't afford to repair her roof. Bill and Helen still have a hefty mortgage payment. This is the reality faced by thousands of older homeowners. Fixed incomes cannot accommodate the rising costs of fuel, taxes or even groceries.

These are the poignant stories that brought me to the Connecticut Commission on Aging more than seven years ago.



I was drawn to the Commission because I knew that as an advocacy body within state government it could make a dramatic difference in the lives of many. I believe it does that, and more.

It is our charge at the Connecticut Commission on Aging to advocate for the present and future generations of older adults in our state. We accomplish our goal through collaboration within a community of remarkable people and organizations, through education and a pure passion for our work. We also do our utmost to serve as a reliable, credible and objective source of information on the many complex issues that face people as young as the baby boomers and as old as the super centenarians.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated, experienced and eager board of directors and an extraordinary staff to carry out our mission. We are equally privileged to work with enlightened members of the General Assembly, the executive branch and many in state government who share our vision of a bright future for Connecticut's older adults.

We are very proud to present our 2006 annual report to the governor, the General Assembly, Connecticut's municipal leaders and the residents of our state. While our very important and heartfelt work will never be "finished," we do believe that significant progress is being made, as evidenced in this report.

To all who contribute to making life more rewarding for our state's older adults we extend our deep and sincere gratitude. We look forward with energy and hope to the challenges and opportunities that await us all in the months and years ahead.


KATHRYN J. FREDA
Chair



In towns large and small all across America, 78 million baby boomers began turning 60 years old in 2006.

The “age wave” generated by this culture-changing generation born between 1946 and 1964 has arrived and through sheer force of numbers, it is remaking our society.

Aging affects all aspects of our lives but none more profoundly than long-term care. It transcends age, gender, race, financial standing and current health status. It will affect each of us, in some way, at some point during our lives.

As its one million baby boomers began turning 60 and with a system out of balance, Connecticut’s annual long-term care budget topped \$2 billion. Clearly, the state was overdue in reassessing its long-term care system—and the preferences of its residents.

By mid-year, the Commission and other stakeholders successfully realized a multi-year effort calling for a comprehensive long-term care needs assessment, the first in more than two decades. Gratefully, with strong bipartisan support, the General Assembly mandated and funded the assessment of the present and future long-term care needs of older adults and persons with disabilities.

The remarkable staff at the UConn Health Center’s Center on Aging executed a multi-faceted approach for this major initiative. Preliminary results were due in January 2007, with a series of reports delivered to the General Assembly beginning in April.

The assessment is a critical part of the foundation needed to structure a long-term care system that ensures people receive the care they prefer and that the state’s funds are used to produce the most good. Please read more about this groundbreaking work on page 4.

Another remarkable project the Commission launched in 2006 is our Redefining Retirement Years initiative. This effort recognizes that millions of older adults and baby boomers offer our state and nation an extraordinary resource of skills and talent and that they want to do work that serves the greater good. Some wish to serve as unpaid volunteers. Others envision merging aspects of traditional salary and benefits-oriented employment with elements of service in second careers that align with their personal interests.

Unfortunately, far too often they are discouraged because their desire to work and serve is clouded by age-related stereotypes, inflexible bureaucratic policies or, I’m afraid, simple indifference. Thus, this huge pool of largely untapped talent remains a grossly underutilized resource in a state and nation that, frankly, desperately need their help. The Commission hopes to help unleash the potential. Our series of focus groups in 2006 and our Civic Engagement Forum scheduled May 3, 2007 are just the beginning.

The Commission believes that these kinds of innovative, forward-looking structural enhancements will allow thousands of people to enjoy more rewarding lives as they age and benefit society in general.

In reviewing 2006, I remain grateful for many things. For policymakers who dare to make a difference; for a dedicated team of staff, board members and volunteers who gladly roll up their sleeves to get the job done; for colleagues who serve with perseverance and conviction; and for older adults themselves, who make it all worthwhile.

Our Commission team is pleased to share this annual report featuring initiatives that will have a direct and positive impact on our great state and its fine people. In doing so, we pledge to continue developing effective public policy through open dialogue and creative partnerships. And we remain committed to providing reliable information and to fostering trust among organizations and individuals who confront today’s immediate challenges and opportunities and work to shape a brighter future


JULIA EVANS STARR
Executive Director

Commission on Aging & Partners Help Shape Connecticut's Future: **State Launches First Long-Term Care Needs Assessment in 20 Years**

Years of intense work by the Connecticut Commission on Aging, the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and many dedicated partners paid major dividends in 2006 as the state launched a comprehensive new study to further shape Connecticut's long-term care system for older adults and persons with disabilities.

The goal of the assessment is to provide a current basis to further refine Connecticut's long-term care system.

Though the Connecticut Medicaid program alone spends approximately \$2 billion a year on long-term care services and supports, the state has not conducted a thorough analysis of its long-term care needs in more than 20 years.

An assessment has been recommended and pursued by the Commission on Aging, Long-Term Care Advisory Council, representatives in state government, consumers, providers and advocates since 1998. It was legislated in 1998 and 2002 but not funded.



Preparing Long-Term Care Needs Assessment Surveys: Dr. Julie Robison, Ph.D. (left) and Dr. Cynthia Gruman, Ph.D. of the Center on Aging, UConn Health Center, review Long-Term Care Needs Assessment survey packages before they are mailed to thousands of Connecticut residents and providers statewide. (Photo by Frank Barton)

The breakthrough came during the 2006 General Assembly session when 32 legislators co-sponsored Senate Bill 346, introduced by the Select Committee on Aging, authorizing the needs assessment in consultation with the Commission on Aging, Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Long-Term Care Planning Committee.

In addition, a task force studying the reestablishment of the Department on Aging also unanimously recommended that the General Assembly conduct the assessment prior to determining the structure of the department.

Strong General Assembly Support

Senate Bill 346 received strong bipartisan support and became effective July 1, 2006 as part of Senate Bill 703, the “implementer” bill.

Among the bill’s most ardent supporters were several members of the 2006 Select Committee on Aging including State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris, committee co-chair; State Rep. Art Feltman, co-chair; State Sen. John A. Kissel, ranking member; State Rep. Alfred Adinolfi, ranking member; State Rep. Livvy R. Floren; and State Rep. Peter F. Villano.

Rep. Villano also co-chairs the Long-Term Care Advisory Council with Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr.

State Rep. Lile R. Gibbons, ranking member of the Human Services Committee, was also instrumental in seeking co-sponsors for the bill. State Rep. John C. Geragosian, who served on the Legislative Management and Appropriations committees, played a key role in supporting and securing funding for the assessment.

The legislature authorized \$200,000 for the study in the Commission on Aging budget. An additional \$80,000 was provided by the Connecticut Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The statewide assessment by the Center on Aging, UConn Health Center, swung into high gear in the early fall of 2006 when the center began contacting approximately 20,000 residents and providers of long-term care services and supports by mail, telephone, the internet and in-person surveys. Preliminary results were expected in January 2007.

The study is directed by Julie T. Robison, Ph.D. and

Co-sponsors of Senate Bill 346, “An Act Concerning the Implementation of a Comprehensive Needs Assessment” (Introduced by the Select Committee on Aging)

Sen. Jonathan A. Harris, <i>5th Dist.</i>	Sen. Donald J. DeFronzo, <i>6th Dist.</i>	Rep. Deborah W. Heinrich, <i>101st Dist.</i>
Sen. John A. Kissel, <i>7th Dist.</i>	Rep. Selim G. Noujaim, <i>74th Dist.</i>	Sen. Eric D. Coleman, <i>2nd Dist.</i>
Rep. George M. Wilber, <i>63rd Dist.</i>	Rep. Lile R. Gibbons, <i>150th Dist.</i>	Sen. Louis C. DeLuca, <i>32nd Dist.</i>
Rep. Art Feltman, <i>6th Dist.</i>	Rep. Lydia N. Martinez, <i>128th Dist.</i>	Rep. Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, <i>5th Dist.</i>
Rep. Al Adinolfi, <i>103rd Dist.</i>	Sen. Andrew W. Roraback, <i>30th Dist.</i>	Rep. David D. McCluskey, <i>20th Dist.</i>
Rep. Peter F. Villano, <i>91st Dist.</i>	Sen. Eileen M. Daily, <i>33rd Dist.</i>	Rep. Christel H. Truglia, <i>145th Dist.</i>
Rep. Arthur J. O'Neill, <i>69th Dist.</i>	Rep. David Aldarondo, <i>75th Dist.</i>	Rep. John A. Harkins, <i>120th Dist.</i>
Rep. John W. Thompson, <i>13th Dist.</i>	Rep. Linda A. Orange, <i>48th Dist.</i>	Rep. Robert T. Keeley, <i>129th Dist.</i>
Rep. Livvy R. Floren, <i>149th Dist.</i>	Rep. Brian J. O'Connor, <i>35th Dist.</i>	Rep. Lenny T. Winkler, <i>41st Dist.</i>
Rep. Kathleen M. Tallarita, <i>58th Dist.</i>	Rep. Peggy Sayers, <i>60th Dist.</i>	Rep. Robert M. Ward, <i>86th Dist.</i>
Sen. Mary Ann Handley, <i>4th Dist.</i>	Rep. Sonya Googins, <i>31st Dist.</i>	

Shaping the Future

“You are poised to take a giant step forward in 2006 for Connecticut’s present and future generations of older adults and persons with disabilities and at the same time make a very wise, relatively small and critical investment.”

Connecticut Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr, Feb. 28, 2006, in testimony before the Select Committee on Aging on Senate Bill 346, “An Act Concerning the Implementation of a Comprehensive Needs Assessment.”

Cynthia Gruman, Ph.D., of the Center on Aging.

Scope of the Project

- Conduct a comprehensive literature and data review including an examination of Connecticut’s current and projected future labor force demands and frontline care providers.
- Examine existing models of long-term care in other states.
- Survey current and future Connecticut long-term care consumers, supplemented by targeted focus groups, to document the current and future need for long-term care.
- Survey public and private providers of long-term care services to document costs, eligibility, payment structure and consumer profiles.
- Conduct a full review of Connecticut’s existing array of services and long-term care rebalancing efforts to identify structural strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the current system.
- Conduct key informant interviews to provide insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the existing long-term care system and future needs in the areas of quality, access and availability from a provider and policy-maker perspective. Key informant interviews will explore such issues as labor force demand and availability, reimbursement, quality, access, current availability of and future demand for services and transportation.

- Recommend broad level changes to existing programs and service delivery systems and prospective new programs or service delivery systems to better serve residents and families needing long-term care.

“Quality-of-life and fiscally responsible structural improvements in the long-term care system become even more necessary—and the opportunities for dramatic results more profound—as Connecticut’s one million baby boomers age,” said Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr.

“As the range of options widens to help people remain in their homes for as long as possible we can look forward to a brighter future for people of all ages who need long-term care,” Evans Starr said.





***Commission Members Review
Year's Accomplishments:***

Commission on Aging members (from left) James L. Pellegrino and Nancy S. Gyurko are joined by Jennifer Glick, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services representative on the Commission, at a fall 2006 meeting reviewing the year's accomplishments.

(Photo by Rob Norton)

Planning 2007 Legislative Priorities: *Members of the Connecticut Commission on Aging's Legislative Subcommittee discuss potential priorities for the 2007 session of the General Assembly. Members are (from left) its chair, Christine M. Lewis, William L. Eddy, Don Dimenstein and Mary Ellen Klinck. Commission member Richard C. Memmott Sr. and Chair Kathryn J. Freda are also members of the subcommittee. (Photo by Rob Norton)*



Long-Term Care Advisory Council Cites '06 Progress

The nearly 30 members of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC) represent a remarkable collaboration of providers, consumers and advocates for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Established under Connecticut Statutes Sec. 17b-338, the council proposes and promotes legislation and advises and makes recommendations to the State of Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee.

The council meets monthly and is managed and co-chaired by Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr and State Rep. Peter F. Villano, (91st District), co-chair of the legislature's Human Services Committee and a member of the Select Committee on Aging.

Chaired by David J. Guttchen of the Office of Policy and Management, the planning committee includes representatives from 10 executive state agencies and the co-chairs and ranking members of the legislature's Committees on Aging, Human Services and Public Health.

The committee exchanges information on long-term care issues, coordinates policy development and, in collaboration with the LTCAC, prepares the statewide Long-Term Care Plan for persons of all ages in need of long-term care. Revised every three years, the updated plan was scheduled to be submitted to the General Assembly in January 2007.

Ensuring Access to Care

The goal of the plan is to ensure that Connecticut residents have access to a full range of high-quality long-term care services by balancing the mix between home and community-based and institutional care. A major goal is for Connecticut "...to develop a system whereby individuals enter institutions by choice and not because the necessary and reasonable supports are unavailable for them to live in the community."

2006 Legislative Briefing

In February 2006 the LTCAC and the General Assembly's Committees of Human Services, Public Health and Aging presented a standing room-only forum entitled "Long-Term Care Issues and Trends" at the Legislative Office Building.

In his opening remarks, Speaker of the House James A. Amann said "Long-term care has undergone a huge transformation over the last 10 years. It is now a web of interconnected supports and services that are no longer defined by a nursing home."

He added that "Seniors who don't need 24-hour care are looking to assisted living services, respite programs and personal care assistant programs as alternatives."

Amann concluded his remarks by saying, "The Long-Term Care Advisory Council is doing a terrific job getting information to the legislature... and out to the public regarding this very important issue."

Needs Assessment Charts Future Course

One of the most successful accomplishments in the Long-Term Care Advisory Council's history occurred during the 2006 session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

In a bipartisan demonstration of support, legislators authorized a comprehensive statewide long-term care needs assessment in consultation with the Commission on Aging, Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Long-Term Care Planning Committee. A preliminary report was due in January 2007. A separate article on the needs assessment appears on page 4.

In addition to proposing and promoting legislation, the council, along with its partners, created a consumer-oriented long-term care services website that became fully functional during 2006—www.ct.gov/longtermcare. An article on the website appears on page 10.

For more information on the Long-Term Care Advisory Council please visit the Commission on Aging's website at www.cga.ct.gov/coa and click on "Partnerships."

"Long-term care will affect all of us at some point in our lives. Whether it is because we need services and supports ourselves, or we are providing care for someone in need, regardless of age, health or wealth, it is unlikely that we will be able to escape the issue of long-term care."

(Long-Term Care Planning Committee: "Long-Term Care Plan. A Report to the General Assembly, January 2004.")

Members of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council:

(State Statutes Section 17b-338)

Organization

Legislative Member of the Planning Committee
 CT Commission on Aging
 CT Association of Residential Care Homes
 CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging
 CT Council for Persons with Disabilities
 CT Association of Health Care Facilities
 CT Association of Personal Assistants
 CT Assisted Living Association
 CT Association of Adult Day Care Centers
 New England Health Care Employees Union, District/1199
 City of New Haven, Services for Persons with Disabilities
 AARP – CT
 CT Association of Home Care, Inc.
 LTC Ombudsman's Office
 Legal Assistance Resource Center
 CT Community Care, Inc.
 CT Hospital Association
 CRT/CT Association of Community Action Agencies
 CT Alzheimer's Association
 CANPFA
 Family Caregiver, c/o National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 CT Coalition of Presidents of Residential Councils
 American College of Health Care Administrators
 Consumer
 Consumer
 Nonunion Home health aide

Representative

State Representative Peter F. Villano (Co-chair)
 Julia Evans Starr (Co-chair)
 Marge Anderson
 Kate McEvoy
 Mildred Blotney/Cathy Ludlum
 Richard Brown
 Debbie Legault
 Christopher Carter
 Holly Vannucci
 Deborah Chernoff
 Michelle Duprey
 Brenda Kelley
 Brian Ellsworth
 Margaret Ewald/Nancy Shaffer
 Joelen Gates
 Molly Rees Gavin
 Jennifer Jackson
 Vacant
 Joe Ierna
 Margaret Morelli
 Susan Raimondo
 Tom Molway
 George Giblin
 Kenneth Harrington-Howes
 Sue Pedersen
 Vacant

Friends of the Advisory Council

CT Commission on Aging, Member
 ARC/CT
 CT Council on Developmental Disabilities
 AARP-CT
 CT Association of Resident Service Coordinators in Housing
 Hebrew Health Care
 Select Committee on Aging

Senator Jonathan Harris
 Senator John Kissel
 Representative Alfred Adinolfi
 Cathy Ludlum
 Bill Eddy
 Quincy Abbot
 Mary- Ann Langton
 Claudio Gualtieri
 Stacey Walker
 Christianne Kovel
 Gloria McKenna

Commission on Aging Plays Critical Development Role: **Long-Term Care Website Proves Popular in Strong '06 Debut**

Following several years of thoughtful development, Connecticut launched its new consumer-friendly internet website in 2006 to help residents of all ages find the comprehensive information they need to locate long-term care services.

Work on www.ct.gov/longtermcare began in 2002 when the General Assembly directed the state Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop the site in consultation with the Select Committee on Aging, Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Connecticut Commission on Aging.

Long-term care is often incorrectly associated exclusively with nursing home care or insurance.

In reality, it encompasses a wide range of assistance, services or devices provided over an extended period of time to meet medical, personal or social needs in a variety of settings and locations.

Grants obtained by the Commission from the Melville Charitable Trust Foundation and the Long Foundation, along with financial contributions from several member organizations of the advisory council, supported website content development. Commission members and interns and advisory council volunteers also participated in site development.

By the late fall of 2006 more than 186 individuals were visiting the website every day, according to Commission on Aging Staff Assistant Deborah Migneault, MSW. A former Commission intern, Migneault served as the website project coordinator before joining the Commission in 2006 as a full-time employee.

David J. Guttchen and Barbara Parks Wolf of OPM were partners in the project and played critical roles in developing the website.

In addition to serving consumers who need long-term care or will need care in the future, www.ct.gov/longtermcare is a source of information for caregivers and providers of long-term care services.

The website uses the United Way's newly updated 2-1-1 Infoline database and other sources to provide comprehensive information under the following headings:

- What is long-term care?
- Determining your needs
- Finding care and support
- Paying for your needs
- Places to live
- Planning for long-term care
- Rights and legal matters
- Directory of providers

"We're confident this new website will be immensely helpful to millions of Connecticut residents, and to people from out of state as well, now and in the future," said Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. "Many dedicated people who care deeply about the long-term care issue came together in a thoughtful, collaborative effort and the results reflect their work."

"Virtually every person in Connecticut regardless of age, health or financial status will need long-term care at some point during their lives," said Commission on Aging member and volunteer William L. Eddy, who also played a key role in developing the website. "This site makes it much easier for people to quickly find the information they need on the growing array of long-term care services available in our state."



Medicare Part D, Long-Term Care, Nutrition, Top Agenda: '06 Progress Cited at CEAN End-of-Session Wrap-up

More than 100 people from organizations throughout Connecticut attended the Connecticut Elder Action Network's (CEAN) fourth annual End-of-Session Wrap-up June 19 at the State Capitol.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris, co-chair of the Select Committee on Aging and Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr.

CEAN, which is chaired and staffed by the Commission on Aging, was created by the Commission nine years ago to offer a strong, cohesive voice on public policy issues. Members share information, expertise and resources to develop and advance an effective and unified public policy agenda.

At the wrap-up session, CEAN members presented summaries of legislation adopted in support of the organization's three top priorities for the 2006 session of the General Assembly:

- **Fund the Medicare Part D "Wrap-Around"**

(In collaboration with the Medicare Part D Coalition led by the Center for Medicare Advocacy.)

- **Conduct a Comprehensive Long-Term Care Needs Assessment** (Also the top priority of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council.)

- **Maintain Support for Elderly Nutrition Programs**

Below are short summaries of legislative action taken on these priorities during the 2006 session.

The full CEAN 2006 Legislative Summary is available on the Commission on Aging's website—www.cga.ct.gov/coa—in the "Publications" section.

Medicare

The federal Medicare Part D program began Jan. 1, 2006 to help Medicare beneficiaries pay for prescription drugs. Federal law required that all persons eligible for both

Medicare and Medicaid ("dual-eligibles") from that date forward receive their drug coverage through Part D. Later-enacted state law also made enrollment in a Part D plan a condition of participating in ConnPACE (Connecticut Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract with the Elderly and Disabled.)



***CEAN Members Discuss '06 Session:** Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN) Executive Committee members Kate McEvoy (left) and Julia Evans Starr discuss the organization's 2006 accomplishments at the End-of-Session Wrap-up June 19 at the State Capitol. McEvoy is deputy director of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut and Evans Starr is executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Aging.*

(Photo by Sue Raggo)

State law enacted in both a 2005 special session of the legislature and in the regular 2006 session provides significant additional coverage that "wraps around" the Part D benefit. This means that the State of Connecticut is covering many of the costs, such as monthly premiums, co-payments and deductibles, that certain older adults and individuals with disabilities would otherwise have had to pay.

Ensuring coverage for non-formulary drugs was the primary concern during the 2006 session and legislators appropriated \$5 million to the Medicare Supplemental Needs

Fund. An additional \$1.5 million was appropriated to the Department of Social Services in support of contracting with an outside organization to assist consumers with the Medicare Part D exceptions (appeals) process.

Details of coverage for non-formulary drugs are provided by Section 13 of Public Act 06-188.

Long-Term Care Needs Assessment

Groundbreaking legislation authorizing and funding a comprehensive long-term care needs assessment was adopted in a strong bipartisan demonstration of support by the 2006 legislature.

More than 30 organizations endorsed the needs assessment contained in Senate Bill 346 as a priority. They included the Commission on Aging and the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, comprised of consumers, providers and advocates.

The statewide survey portion of the assessment – contacting more than 20,000 residents and long-term care providers – was launched in the fall of 2006. Preliminary results of the first comprehensive assessment in 20 years were expected in January 2007.

A separate article on the assessment appears on page 4.

Nutrition

The 2006 legislature increased funding for the state's Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) by \$800,000. ENP is the largest program administered by the Department of Social Services' Aging Services Division, Connecticut's State Unit on Aging.

In 2000, the nutritional needs of the elderly as perceived by the elderly community were assessed by the Senior Nutrition Awareness Program at the Universities of Connecticut and Rhode Island. The survey revealed the following needs:

- 22% reported the need for help with shopping and cooking;
- 19% reported they ran out of food frequently;
- 15% reported they didn't have enough money to purchase all the food they need;
- 10% reported they eat fewer than two meals a day;
- 15% reported they participate in free food programs when available; and
- 25% reported they receive food stamps.

The Connecticut ENP served approximately 25,000 people in 2005 and provides nearly 3.5 million meals annually at congregate meal sites and through home-delivered meal programs.

Innovation and Progress

"The 2006 session provided opportunities for bipartisan policy-making, innovation and progress," said Evans Starr.

The following are summaries of favorable legislative action taken on several other CEAN bills of interest during 2006. The full CEAN report, including summaries of bills that were vetoed or on which no action was taken, is available on the



***Molly Rees Gavin**, President of Connecticut Community Care, Inc. and a member of the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN) Executive Committee, comments during the CEAN 2006 End-of-Session Wrap-up June 19 at the State Capitol. (Photo by Sue Raggo)*



***Pamela Giannini**, Director of the Aging Services Division—Department of Social Services, answers a question during the Connecticut Elder Action Network 2006 End-of-Session Wrap-up. (Photo by Sue Raggo)*

Commission on Aging's website – www.cga.ct.gov/coa – in the “Publications” section.

Adult Day Care

- Supplemental Funding: Public Act 06-186 (signed by the Governor on 5/7/06), the budget act, appropriates additional funding to help meet uncovered costs of providing transportation to attendees of adult day care. The Department of Social Services (DSS) notified providers that effective July 1, 2006, the full-day rate for medical providers has been increased to \$61.70.

Home Care

- Personal Care Assistant Pilot: Section 9 of Public Act 06-188 (signed by the Governor on 5/26/06) expands the State-funded Personal Care Pilot that is operated through the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders from 150 to 250 slots (effective 7/1/06).

Authorization for New Waivers

- Section 44 of Public Act 06-188 (signed by the Governor on 5/26/06) authorizes DSS to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish a “Money Follows the Person” demonstration project. (effective 7/1/06).

Probate Matters

- Health Care Decision-Making: Sections 59 through 81, and Section 87 of Public Act 06-195 (signed by the Governor on 6/7/06), 1) modernize Connecticut's statutes by combining the authority of the health care agent and attorney-in-fact for health care decisions into a unified proxy: the “health care representative”; 2) expand the scope of a living will from covering only decisions concerning life support to include any aspect of health care; 3) confer on the “health care representative” the authority to make any and all health care decisions for a person who is incapable of expressing those wishes him or herself; 4) clarify that a conservator must comply with the previously executed advance directives of a ward; 5) ensure that advance directives executed prior to the effective date of the proposed law remain valid; and 6) establish a comity provision, which provides for recognition of advance directives validly executed elsewhere that are not contrary to Connecticut public policy (effective 10/1/06).

Taxation

- Municipal Property Tax Freeze Option: Public Act 06-176 (signed by the Governor on 6/9/06) allows municipalities to freeze property tax obligations of homeowners and their spouses where the homeowner 1) is age 70 or older; 2) has lived in Connecticut for at least one year; 3) meets Circuit Breaker income limits (currently, \$27,700 for individuals and \$33,900 for couples); and 4) meets any asset limits that are imposed by the involved town.

CEAN Executive Committee Members:

Connecticut Commission on Aging, Chair

Christine M. Lewis
Julia Evans Starr

AARP-CT

Brenda Kelley

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.

Judith Stein, JD

Connecticut Legal Services

Kevin Brophy, Esq.

Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Kate McEvoy, Esq.

Connecticut Association of Municipal Agents for Elders

Dianne Stone

Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel

Patricia Schneider

Connecticut Coalition on Aging

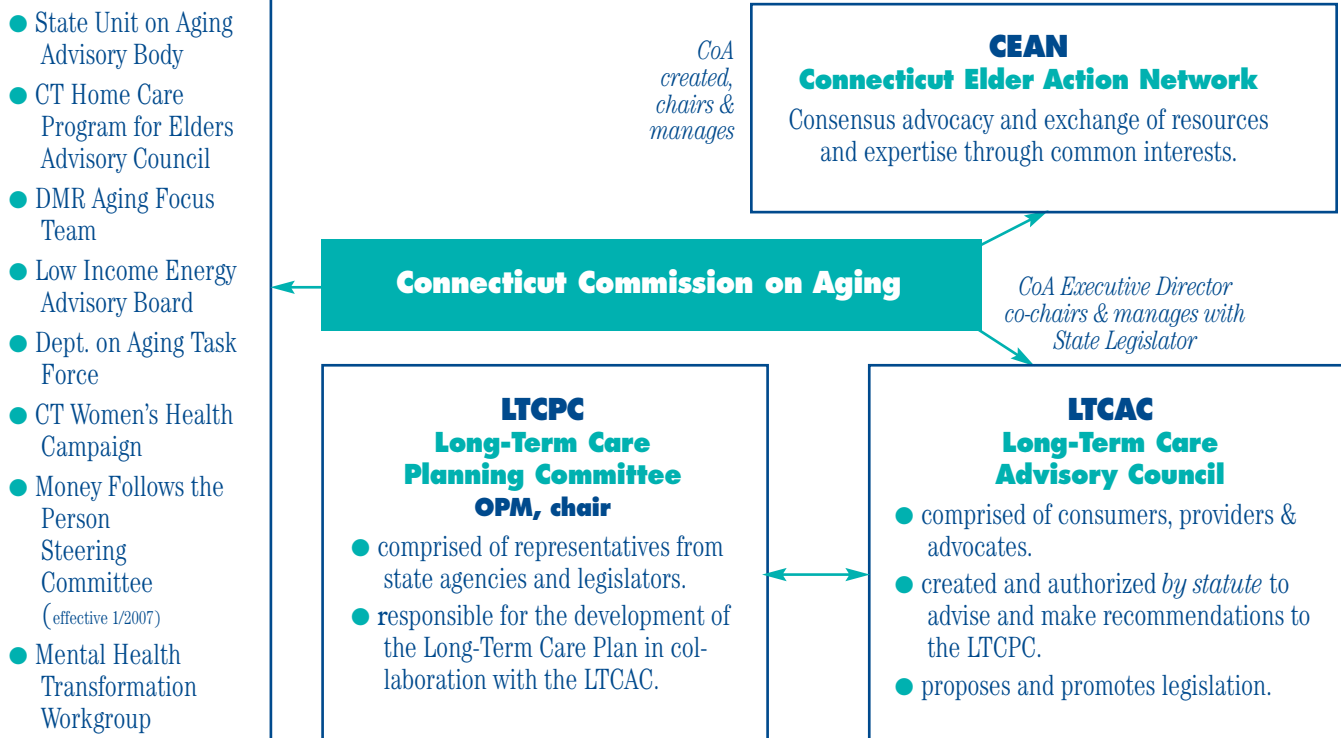
Sharon Garrard and Helen Raisz

Connecticut Community Care, Inc.

Molly Rees Gavin

The Executive Committee of CEAN enjoys a special working relationship with **Pamela Giannini**, Director of the Aging Services Division - Department of Social Services

Connecticut Commission on Aging Advocacy Relationships / Partnerships



Relationship of the Connecticut Commission on Aging to the State Unit on Aging within the Department of Social Services

Although they are separate entities with clearly defined and distinct roles, the Commission on Aging and the Aging Services Division of the Department of Social Services (DSS) enjoy a close working relationship.

The federal government designates State Units on Aging (SUA) as the hub of each state's programs and services for older residents. Directed by Pamela Giannini, the Aging Services Division of DSS is Connecticut's SUA. One

of its major responsibilities is to administer federal Older Americans Act programs and to deliver services through the National Family Caregiver Program, the Elderly Nutrition Program, CHOICES and more.

The Commission serves as advisory body to the SUA, reviews and comments on its budget, collaborates with it on projects and initiatives and advocates on its behalf.

Executive Branch

Department of Social Services — Aging Services Division (State Unit on Aging)

Accountable to the Governor

Primary Responsibilities:

- Program Planning
- Program Development
- Program Management

Legislative Branch

Connecticut Commission on Aging

*Accountable to the
community*

Primary Responsibilities:

- Independent Advocacy
 - Critique
- Propose Legislation

Commission Supports Effort to Develop Financially Self-Sustaining Programs Transportation Grants Hold Promise for More Independence

More than half of non-drivers age 65 and older, or 3.6 million Americans, stay home on any given day partially because they lack transportation options. As a result, older non-drivers are less able to participate in their communities. Compared to those who still drive, older non-drivers make:

- 5 percent fewer trips to the doctor
- 59 percent fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants
- 65 fewer trips for social family and religious activities

Connecticut Department of Social Services, May 2006

The Connecticut Commission on Aging applauded the General Assembly's action in 2006 to provide increased funding for grants to help Connecticut communities create regional non-profit, financially self-sustaining transportation networks for older adults.

The funds will be used to develop community-based networks modeled after the highly successful Independent Transportation Network (ITNAmerica) founded in Portland, Me., by Katherine Freund.

Freund spoke at a Jan. 31, 2006 information session sponsored by the Aging Services Division-State Unit on Aging of the Connecticut Department of Social Services and attended by members of the Commission.

One of ITN's most unique features is that it uses automobiles—rather than vans or buses—to provide comfortable rides 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The ITN programs are financially self-sustaining and are staffed by both paid employees and volunteers.

The ITN model "...meets the mobility needs of older people," Freund said, providing increased freedom of movement on a schedule that meets personal needs.

"With less impact to the taxpayer and more control for the consumer than other policy alternatives, incentives for private solutions can fuel transportation options for today's seniors and the baby boomers who will follow them soon," she said.

Moving Forward in 2006

Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr credited ongoing leadership in 2006 by State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris (D-West Hartford), chair of the Select Committee on Aging and State Sen. John A. Kissel (R-Enfield), the committee's ranking member, along with

bipartisan support from the committee members and others, for advancing the transportation agenda.

Legislation passed in 2005 authorized \$100,000 for the planning and development of regional transportation networks to be distributed to four municipalities with populations of at least 25,000 or to non-profit organizations in a municipality. Those selected to receive state grants were required to demonstrate that they could secure \$25,000 in private matching funds and work cooperatively with their regional planning agency to develop the transportation system.

During the 2006 session, the legislature increased the maximum for regional ITN grants from \$25,000 for each community to \$50,000. (Sections 40-41 of Public Act 06-188.)

The Aging Services Division sought requests for proposals from municipalities wishing to participate in the program and ultimately selected five organizations representing 30 communities.

They include:

- The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging covering the towns of Colebrook, Winchester, Barkhamsted, Torrington, New Hartford, Litchfield, Harwinton, Morris and Thomaston.
- St. Luke's Home, covering the towns of Portland, Middlefield, Middletown and East Hampton.
- The Middlesex Chapter of the American Red Cross covering Bristol, Farmington, Plainville, New Britain, Newington and Berlin.
- The Town of Enfield Department of Social Services covering Bloomfield, Granby, East Granby, Suffield, Enfield, Somers, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, Windsor and South Windsor.
- The Town of West Hartford, which was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Department of Social Services later in the year.

"More powerful than the tread of mighty armies is an idea whose time has come."

Victor Hugo
(From Katherine Freund's Jan. 31, 2006 presentation in Hartford.)

For Support of State's Older Adults... Harris, Geragosian, Stein Receive Commission's 2006 'Agewise Advocate Award'

The Connecticut Commission on Aging has presented its 2006 "Agewise Advocate Award" to State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris, State Rep. John C. Geragosian and Judith Stein, JD, executive director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

The annual award is presented to individuals who provide exemplary support of the Commission's efforts to achieve meaningful progress on its legislative priorities during the year.

"The Commission is thrilled to present its 2006 awards to these outstanding leaders for the tremendous efforts they made, and meaningful results they achieved, in support of Connecticut's older adults," said Commission Chair Kathryn J. Freda.

Senator Harris (*5th District, including Bloomfield, Burlington, Farmington and West Hartford*)

As chair of the General Assembly's Select Committee on Aging in 2006, Sen. Harris energetically championed successful key legislative initiatives benefiting older adults including innovative transportation programs and the Commission on Aging's top priority for the year, a comprehensive statewide Long-Term Care Needs Assessment.

Sen. Harris co-sponsored Senate Bill 346, authorizing the groundbreaking needs assessment which will serve as a roadmap to help guide the future structure of Connecticut's long-term care delivery system. Due in large part to his strong leadership, the bill was co-sponsored by 31 other senators and state representatives.

Sen. Harris was elected state senator in November 2004 and reelected to a second term in November 2006. Prior to his election, he served with distinction as the mayor of West Hartford and was serving his second term as mayor when he was elected to the State Senate. He successfully led the effort to reinvent town government, reducing its size while preserving the quality of education and town services.

Representative Geragosian
(*25th District, New Britain*)

As an influential member of the General Assembly's critically important Appropriations Committee, Rep. Geragosian played a key role during 2006 in supporting and securing \$200,000 in funding for the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment.

He also played a very important role in helping to restore the Commission on Aging's budget as the Commission moved from the executive to the legislative branch of government in 2006.

A lifelong resident of New Britain, Rep. Geragosian was elected to the House of Representatives in 1994 and is the senior member of New Britain's delegation. Prior to his election as a state representative, Rep. Geragosian served as an alderman on New Britain's City Council and chaired the city's Zoning and Claims Committees. Upon leaving the City Council in 1993, he was appointed to the Commission on Community and Neighborhood Development and served there until his election to the House in 1994.

Judith Stein, JD

Few people have done more to directly affect the health and well-being of Connecticut's older adults and their counterparts nationwide than Judith Stein, founder and executive director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

Ms. Stein created the center in 1986 as a national non-partisan education and advocacy organization that identifies and promotes policy and advocacy solutions to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities have access to Medicare and quality care. Her work has been especially critical over the last two years in helping people navigate the complex new Medicare "Part D" prescription drug program and educating policymakers on its implications.

Staffed by attorneys, paralegals, nurses and information management experts, the center, with headquarters in Willimantic, represents thousands of individuals in their appeals of Medicare denials. Center staff respond to more than 6,000 calls annually from older adults, persons with disabilities, their families and support networks. The organization also provides legal training and support for Connecticut's CHOICES program and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

"Fortunately, the list of potential Agewise Advocate Award winners is a very long one and we are profoundly grateful for the support of countless individuals who care deeply about the well-being of Connecticut's older adults," Freda said. "Through their diligent and highly effective work, Sen. Harris, Rep. Geragosian and Judith Stein represent the 'best of the best' in our state."

Connecticut's future workforce in spotlight as... Commission, State Agencies Convene Focus Groups In Ongoing 'Redefining Retirement Years' Initiative

In keeping with its mandate to assess emerging issues affecting Connecticut's present and future generations of older adults, the Commission on Aging in 2006 convened a series of nine focus groups to investigate the changing demographic structure of the state's workforce.

The Commission partnered with the Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) and state Employment and Training Commission (CETC) to convene the September focus groups at Homecare Management Strategies, Inc., in Wallingford.

The 55 participants included employees and retirees of private for-profit and non-profit businesses and active and retired employees of state agencies. During the two-hour focus group sessions they discussed their views on employment, workplace issues and retirement.

Findings from the focus groups may ultimately help influence public education, guide advocacy with state policy makers and spur new initiatives that could strengthen the workforce and Connecticut's economy.

The issue is particularly pertinent to members of the baby boom generation who may wish to remain in the workplace longer, retrain for new employment opportunities or seek more flexible workplace options.

Assessing the Issue

A report on the likely effects of emerging workforce demographics was prepared by the CETC, the state's workforce investment board. The CETC advises the governor and General Assembly and oversees workforce development efforts.

The CETC's 2005 Annual Plan notes that Connecticut faces several challenges to a successful economic future including, "the looming collision between demographic and economic realities."



Dr. Waldo C. Klein, Commission on Aging treasurer and chair of its Redefining Retirement Years subcommittee, discusses the project with subcommittee members at a fall 2006 meeting.

To plan the focus groups and related work, the Commission on Aging formed a Redefining Retirement Years subcommittee chaired by its treasurer, Dr. Waldo C. Klein, Ph.D., MSW. Dr. Klein is a professor at the UConn School of Social Work. An author and lecturer, he teaches courses in gerontology and social research methods.

Other Commission members on the subcommittee are Department of Labor Commissioner Patricia H. Mayfield, Susan Deschamplain, William L. Eddy, Carol Tillman

Parrish, James L. Pellegrino and Gerd Weindling. The CETC is represented by Jonathan Swift and Richard Pearson. Commission Executive Director Julia Evans Starr also participates in all subcommittee projects.

"The first-hand information gathered during these focus groups will contribute significantly to the body of

Workforce "warning signs" in the CETC report include:

- *Connecticut's population is older, on average, than most other states.*
- *The state's population and workforce are not growing.*
- *Many members of the baby boom generation will either leave the workforce during the next decade or will need to acquire new skills in order to remain productive.*
- *There may not be enough replacement workers with the necessary skills to compensate for the loss of retirees.*

knowledge needed to help shape the workforce of the future in Connecticut,” said Mayfield. “We very much appreciate the participants’ candor, energy and enthusiasm.”

Dr. Klein said the aging of Connecticut’s population coincides with the tendency for younger, educated workers to leave Connecticut.

“This trend presents us with challenges but it also offers some potentially exciting employment opportunities for baby boomers as they redefine the traditional meaning of retirement,” Dr. Klein said.

Save the Date! **Commission Plans Civic** **Engagement Forum** **May 3, 2007**

A Commission on Aging subcommittee focused squarely on the future during 2006 as it planned “Exploring Civic Engagement and Volunteerism,” a statewide educational and networking forum scheduled May 3, 2007 at the Hartford Marriott Farmington in Farmington.

“As millions of baby boomers reach their mid-60’s they’ll have the opportunity to volunteer for thousands of paid and unpaid positions in countless numbers of ways,” said subcommittee Chair and Commission Vice-Chair Christine M. Lewis.

Members of the Commission subcommittee planning the forum are Sharon Gesek, Maxine Goldstein, Nancy S. Gyurko, Judith M. Jencks, Richard C. Memmott, Sr. and Carolyn J. Thornberry. Commission Executive Director Julia Evans Starr also participates in all subcommittee activities.

“Whether in the public or private sector, an organization’s future success may depend on understanding, attracting and engaging Connecticut’s fastest-growing

population—the state’s one million strong baby boom generation,” Lewis said.

The forum provides an opportunity for participants to explore the challenges and opportunities of attracting baby boomers with decision-makers from business and government, non-profit agencies, service providers and professionals.

Judy Goggin, senior vice president and director of San Francisco-based Civic Ventures, will be the guest speaker. Civic Ventures is a think tank that is “reframing the debate about aging in America and redefining the second half of life as a source of social and individual renewal.” Her appearance is sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel.

“It’s clear that new and diverse civic engagement channels must be developed or Connecticut could lose forever the chance to tap a vast and talented resource,” Lewis said. “We’re confident the forum will provide an opportunity for constructive dialogue leading to innovative ideas.”

Further information on the forum may be obtained by calling the Commission at (860) 240-5200. As details are finalized, information will also be posted on the Commission’s website at www.cga.ct.gov/coa.

Commission Provides Public Information Via Many Channels

In addition to regularly providing legislators and others in government with objective information, the Connecticut Commission on Aging frequently reaches out to audiences statewide through the news media, the internet and other channels.

The Commission's three-person full-time staff and master of social work student interns answer more than 1,000 calls a year from people throughout the state seeking assistance or information on a host of issues. Commission staff answer questions on-the-spot or refer callers to organizations that can directly provide them with the help or information they need.

Throughout the year Commission members and staff also deliver expert testimony at public hearings and serve as keynote speakers or participate on panels at a wide variety of meetings hosted by diverse groups statewide.

During 2006 the Commission's website—www.cga.ct.gov/coa— and the state's new long-term care website—www.ct.gov/longtermcare—experienced thousands of "hits" as Connecticut residents and people from around the country sought information on services and supports, elderly issues and links to other sources.

Outreach On Radio: *Dr. Julie Robison, Ph.D. of the Center on Aging, UConn Health Center, discusses the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment survey on the WTIC-Radio program "The Aging Process." The program deals with issues facing older adults and is co-hosted by Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr and WTIC reporter Bill Pearse.*

(Photo by Rob Norton)

Media Outreach

The Commission was highly visible during 2006 in the print and broadcast news media.

Examples of the Commission's public information efforts included generating op-ed pieces and letters-to-the editor in the *Hartford Courant* on subjects ranging from long-term care to baby boomers in the workforce. Daily and weekly newspapers statewide carried other information about the Commission's activities and the *New Haven Register* covered the Nov. 13 "town hall" meeting in New Haven.

Commission Executive Director Julia Evans Starr co-hosts "The Aging Process," a Sunday morning radio program on WTIC-AM with newsman Bill Pearse. She was also a guest on Connecticut Public Television Network's "Front and Center" program with Ray Hardman. That program also aired across the state over the WNPR radio network.

Commission Treasurer Dr. Waldo C. Klein and Evans Starr appeared for an hour on WDRC-AM radio's "Talk of Connecticut" program with Dan Lovallo, discussing the impact of baby boomers in the workplace.

Commission member William L. Eddy and Dr. Cynthia Gruman of UConn's



Center on Aging discussed the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment during an appearance on WVIT-TV's "Connecticut Newsmakers" program with Tom Monahan. During 2006 Evans Starr and State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris also co-hosted "Agewise," a program on WHC-TV in West Hartford.

"Serving as a source of objective, credible information and reaching people through as many vehicles as possible is an important part of our mission," said Commission Director of Communications Robert J. Norton. "We'll continue to expand the range of tools we use to get the message out to as many people as possible across Connecticut."

Reaching Out on Community Television: Fifth District State Sen. Jonathan A. Harris of West Hartford discusses the need to expand transportation options for older adults with Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. During 2006 Harris and Evans Starr co-hosted "Agewise," a program devoted to aging issues, on West Hartford's WHC-TV community television. (Photo by Rob Norton)



Aging Issues 'Front and Center': Ray Hardman, host of the Connecticut Public Television program "Front and Center," discusses issues affecting the state's older adults with Connecticut Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr (center) and Brenda Kelley, state director of AARP-Connecticut in September 2006. (Photo by Rob Norton)

Lively 'Town Hall Meeting' Draws New Haven Seniors

Approximately 125 members of several New Haven senior centers asked tough questions and offered insightful comments during a spirited "town hall meeting" Nov. 13 at New Haven's Gateway Community College.

The event was sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Aging, New Haven Department of Elderly Services and Gateway to give the area's older adults an opportunity to speak up about issues that concern them.

During the lively two-hour session moderated by Commission on Aging Chair Kathryn J. Freda, seniors expressed their views on a host of topics including the high cost or lack of access to prescription drugs, dental care and hearing aids. Several requested more variety and better nutritional selections for meals served at senior centers. Others said there is a clear need for more assistance in planning for long-term care services.

A panel of representatives from state and local agencies responded to the questions and comments and provided information on resources available to help the seniors obtain necessary services.

Panel members included Commission on Aging Secretary Donald Dimenstein of New Haven; New Haven Department of Elderly Services Director Darcey Lynn Cobbs; Dr. Kerin R. Kelsey, a professor at Gateway who was instrumental in helping to organize the meeting; Pamela Giannini, director of the

Aging Services Division at the state Department of Social Services; Julia Evans Starr, executive director of the Commission on Aging; and Dennis King, manager of community advocacy at the state Department of Transportation.

Neysa Stallman Guerino, executive director of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, also answered questions and provided brochures and telephone numbers to help seniors find services and support.

"We were very encouraged by the number of attendees, their interest and enthusiasm and the range of issues they covered," said Dimenstein. "One of the Commission on Aging's major responsibilities is to interact with older adults and the New Haven meeting provided a great opportunity for us to do that."

New Haven Seniors' Concerns:

- *Cost/access to prescription drugs*
- *Increased dental care services*
- *Wider availability of hearing aids*
- *Help planning for long-term care*



Energy-packed 'Town Hall' Session Draws 125: Some of the enthusiastic senior center members attending a November 2006 "town hall meeting" at Gateway Community College in New Haven raise their hands to ask questions of panel members. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Aging, New Haven Department of Elderly Services and Gateway with support from the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut.

(Photo by Rob Norton)

In addition to the many valued individuals and organizations mentioned throughout this annual report, the following people deserve a special “Thank You!” from the Connecticut Commission on Aging:

Former Lt. Gov. Kevin B. Sullivan: Without whose unwavering support the Commission may not have been able to gain true autonomy in its new life at the State Capitol.

The 2006 Select Committee on Aging: For your support of the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment and so much more:

Sen. Jonathan A. Harris, Co-Chair

Rep. Art Feltman, Co-Chair

Sen. Edith G. Prague, Vice-Chair

Rep. George M. Wilber, Vice-Chair

Sen. John A. Kissel, Ranking Member

Rep. Alfred Adinolfi, Ranking Member

Rep. David Aldarondo

Rep. Livvy R. Floren

Rep. William A. Hamzy

Rep. Selim G. Noujaim

Rep. Kathleen M. Tallarita

Rep. Peter F. Villano

Rep. Bruce Zalaski

Julie Robison, Ph.D. and Cindy Gruman, Ph.D.: Leaders of the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment study at the UConn Center on Aging: We thank you and your entire organization for your Professionalism, Perseverance—and Patience.

William L. Eddy: Commission member and dedicated volunteer for his extraordinarily effective work at the State Capitol and ongoing commitment to long-term care progress.

Kate McEvoy: We applaud your energy, enthusiasm and professionalism on behalf of the Connecticut Elder Action Network and much more.

Judith Feinstein: Facilitator and dedicated friend who continues to help set a positive course for the Commission.

The Connecticut General Assembly’s Information

Technology Services: For all of your guidance throughout the year.

CHOICES Program Staff, Partners and Volunteers:

For an exceptional and successful year responding to critical information needs.

Ellen Lawrence of the Department of Transportation: The Commission very much appreciates the years of support you provided—and the countless meetings you hosted— as the outstanding ex officio representative for the DoT.

David Primini of the Atria Senior Living Group: Our deepest thanks for the meetings you have hosted at Atria Greenridge Place.

Donna Galluzzo of Homecare Management Strategies, Inc.:

The Commission is very appreciative of your organization's kindness in hosting our nine Redefining Retirement Years focus groups.

A very special thanks to the University of Connecticut Master of Social Work student interns whose skill and dedication helped make 2006 a success and set the stage for an even brighter future. In addition to fielding hundreds of phone calls, arranging meetings and attending to daily office needs, our interns assist with major Commission on Aging special projects and research work.

Sue Raggio: A valued stalwart, especially during the Commission's first year in its new State Capitol headquarters.

Lindsay Quillen: “Go-to” guru for the Redefining Retirement Years focus groups.

Jennifer Leonard: A real hands-on boost for the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment.



Transcribing Focus Group

Conversations: Commission on Aging Staff Assistant Deborah Migneault (left) and Lindsay Quillen, a 2006 Master of Social Work student intern, discuss the process for transcribing the Redefining Retirement Years focus group conversations at the Commission's State Capitol offices. (Commission on Aging Photo)

Connecticut Commission on Aging 2006 Annual Report

Commission Members

In achieving its public policy and outreach goals as an independent advocate within state government, the Connecticut Commission on Aging relies on strong public/private partnerships on many levels. The partnership is especially evident in the relationship between the Commission's citizen "voting" members and its ex officio members, who are dedicated professionals within state government.

The voting members are appointed by members of the state legislature or the governor and provide the Commission with a remarkable depth of knowledge, experience and dedication.

Below are biographies of the members. Please visit the Commission's website at www.cga.ct.gov/coa under the "Members" section for more detailed background information.

Chair



Kathryn J. Freda, of Farmington, the Commission's chair, previously served as treasurer. She brings enthusiasm, impressive leadership skills and experience from her professional and educational background to the Commission. Ms. Freda has worked with older adults for nearly a decade. As a reverse mortgage specialist with Webster Bank she provides advice on housing and financial options. She holds a Master's degree in Human Development and Gerontology from St. Joseph College.

Vice-Chair



Christine M. Lewis, of South Windsor, vice-chair, was appointed by Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney in 2003. With over 30 years of experience in state government, she is the former director of the Elderly Services Division of the Department of Social Services. She was instrumental in the development of Connecticut's Federal and State Elderly Nutrition Program, the Area Agencies on Aging and the Statewide Caregiver and Alzheimer's Respite programs. Ms. Lewis has an MSW from the UConn School of Social Work.

Treasurer



Waldo C. Klein, Ph.D., MSW, of Storrs, is the Commission's treasurer. He was reappointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams in 2005. Dr. Klein, a professor at the UConn School of Social Work, teaches courses in gerontology and social research methods. Consistent with his interest in successful aging, Dr. Klein has conducted a number of studies on older adults' perception of, and participation in, senior center programming. He is an author and frequent presenter at conferences and meetings.

Secretary



Don Dimenstein, of New Haven, the Commission's secretary, was appointed to his second term by Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney in 2005. Director of Elderly Services for the City of New Haven until retiring in 2001, he brings over 40 years of knowledge and expertise to the Commission. He serves on the Residents Services Committee of Tower One/Tower East, a New Haven senior citizens housing community and on the Gateway Community College Humanities Council, which promotes a senior citizens' agenda through Gateway's Sages Program.

Member-at-Large

Gerd Weindling, of Trumbull, was reappointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2005. Following his retirement as a General Electric executive, he became active in AARP, serving as the state director for four years and state president for six years. In 2000 he was honored as AARP Connecticut Volunteer of the Year. He is a member of the Connecticut State Medical Society Medicare Subcommittee. He serves as chair of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Patient and Family Advisory Council and is the Medicare counselor.



William L. Eddy, of Simsbury, was appointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2005. In addition to serving as a Commission member, he volunteers many hours of his time at the State Capitol. He received the Connecticut Community Care, Inc.'s Myra H. Kerr Individual Advocacy Award on behalf of older adults in 2002, the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service in 2003 and the Connecticut Commission on Aging Appreciation Award in 2004. He is a retired financial services industry senior executive.



Sharon Gesek, of Seymour, was appointed by Senate Minority Leader Louis C. DeLuca in 2005. She is the Director of the Monroe Senior Center. Ms. Gesek has spent many active years in the public sector in social services organizations including the Community Awareness Program for Seniors, Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel, Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging and the Connecticut Coalition on Aging.



Maxine Goldstein, of Greenwich, was appointed by former Speaker of the House Moira Lyons in 2003. During her 20-year career in gerontology, she has been an advocate for older citizens and an initiator of new programs to help support and promote independence. As the director of the Greenwich Commission on Aging for more than nine years, she was instrumental in creating a local property tax relief program and Friendly Seniors, a teleconferencing program for homebound older citizens.



Nancy S. Gyurko, of Torrington, was appointed by Senate Minority Leader Louis C. DeLuca in 2005. She is one of the original members of the Commission and served as its chair for three and one-half years. For the past 20 years, she has served as the Director of Services for the Elderly in Torrington, as well as director of the Sullivan Senior Center and the municipal agent. She is a vice president of the Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington and a member of the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Board of Governors.



Judith M. Jencks, of Lisbon, was appointed by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward in 2005. She is the senior coordinator/municipal agent for the Town of Lisbon and chair of the Board of Directors for Senior Resources Agency on Aging. She is a member of the Lisbon Commission on Aging, the Connecticut Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly, the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel and the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging.





Gerard J. Kerins, M.D., F.A.C.P., of Madison, was appointed by Speaker of the House James A. Amann in 2005. Section chief of geriatrics at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Dr. Kerins holds faculty positions at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Yale University School of Medicine. His clinical areas of interest and research include Alzheimer's disease and the care of older adults with developmental disabilities. He is a consultant to the Department of Mental Retardation.



Mary Ellen Klinck, of East Haddam, was appointed by House Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan in 2005. She served as commissioner of the state's former Department on Aging from 1983 to 1991. She is a member of the East Haddam Committee on Aging and served on the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's disease. She has earned awards for her volunteer work from numerous organizations including the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Hartford, United Way, March of Dimes and American Heart Association.



Patricia H. Mayfield, of Waterbury, was appointed by House Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan in 2005. In May 2006 Mrs. Mayfield was named by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to serve as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor. She had previously served in various capacities with the department from 1968 to 2004, when she retired. During her 34-year career at the Department of Labor, she served 11 years as program manager for the Workforce Investment Act and as the commissioner of labor's liaison with the Commission on Aging.



Richard C. Memmott, Sr., of West Haven, was appointed by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward in 2005. He is the director of Masonic Community Services at Masonicare in Wallingford. Mr. Memmott has performed outreach to seniors, made presentations to civic, religious, community and fraternal groups and organized community programs and symposiums. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging as well as a statewide CHOICES counselor.



Long-Term Care Surveys Prepared:

Connecticut Commission on Aging member William L. Eddy and Commission Staff Assistant Deborah Migneault volunteer their time preparing long-term care needs assessment surveys for mailing in November 2006 at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Commission members, staff and volunteers assisted UConn's Center on Aging in preparing thousands of surveys for mailing to participants statewide.

(Photo by Rob Norton)

Carol Tillman Parrish, of Hartford, was reappointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2005. Mrs. Parrish is a member, current secretary and past vice-president of the Board of Directors of the North Central Area Agency on Aging, where she has served since 1995. She was an active member of AARP since 1992, serving as a minority affairs spokesperson, a member of AARP's Connecticut Leadership Council, a Tax Aide Program volunteer and a Connecticut District Advocacy Team member. She helped organize Hartford Chapter 5266 of AARP in 1998.



James L. Pellegrino, of Meriden, was appointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2005. He served 11 years as president of The Henderson Leonard Group, a career management consulting firm. He served two terms as mayor of Meriden and worked with the Connecticut congressional delegation on aerospace issues. He held executive management positions at United Technologies Corp. and the Textron Lycoming Division of Textron Inc. He is an executive-in-residence at the UConn Business School, executive coach and independent consultant.



Carolyn J. Thornberry, Ph.D., of West Hartford, was appointed by State Senate Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams in 2005. Dr. Thornberry is a college educator and public policy consultant and has previously worked in non-profit business management. In 2005, she was elected to a third term on the West Hartford Town Council. She chairs the council's Human Services Committee and her numerous initiatives have centered on assistance and support programs for senior citizens.



2006 Ex Officio Members

Commissioner Pat Wilson-Coker

Department of Social Services

Represented by Pamela Giannini—Aging Services Division

Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M. P. H.

Department of Public Health

Represented by Barbara Yard

Commissioner Ralph J. Carpenter

Department of Transportation

Represented by Dennis King

Commissioner Patricia H. Mayfield

Department of Labor

Represented by Susan Deschamplain

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

Department of Mental Retardation

Represented by Tammy Garris

Commissioner James Abromaitis

Department of Economic & Community Development

Represented by Debra Landry

Commissioner Thomas Kirk, Jr., Ph.D.

Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Represented by Jennifer Glick

Commissioner Susan F. Cogswell

Department of Insurance

Represented by Karen Smigel

Senator Mary Ann Handley, 4th District

Co-chair, Human Services Committee

Representative Peter F. Villano, 91st District

Co-chair, Human Services Committee

Senator John A. Kissel, 7th District

Ranking Member, Human Services Committee

Ranking Member, Select Committee on Aging

Representative Lile R. Gibbons, 150th District

Ranking Member, Human Services Committee

Senator Jonathan A. Harris, 5th District

Co-chair, Select Committee on Aging

Representative Art Feltman, 6th District

Co-chair, Select Committee on Aging

Representative Alfred Adinolfi, 103rd District

Ranking Member, Select Committee on Aging

Commission Staff



Executive Director

Julia Evans Starr, MSW

Julia joined the staff in 1994 (six months into its existence) and has helped the Commission fulfill its role within state government—to raise awareness and find responsible solutions for the increasingly complex issues affecting the state's present and future generations of older residents.

As co-chair of the legislatively mandated Long-Term Care Advisory Council, she and co-chair, State Rep. Peter F. Villano (D-Hamden), lead a diverse group of providers, advocates and consumers who work with the Long-Term Care Planning Committee to develop public policy which is responsive to the long-term care needs of elders and persons with disabilities. Julia also established and manages the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN), comprised of key leaders in the field of aging, to enhance collaboration with diverse organizations and to share information, resources and energy.

Julia was recognized in June 2005 by the Connecticut Coalition on Aging for being the "Champion of the Elderly."

She earned a Master's Degree at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, procuring a Concentration in Gerontology with a Specialization in Administration.



Director of Communications

Robert J. Norton

Bob joined the Commission on Aging staff in November 2005 following a 25-year career as a communications executive with Aetna Life & Casualty and The Hartford Financial Services Group. His corporate career is complemented by 10 years of experience as a daily newspaper reporter, editor and news bureau chief.

While at Aetna Bob directed public relations, marketing communications, advertising and public affairs programs dealing with Medicare, long-term care and managed care. Before joining the Commission he spent six years as vice president of Executive and Marketing Communications at The Hartford.

Bob is a Connecticut native and Vietnam Era veteran of the U.S. Air Force, where he served for four years as a military journalist covering Air Force operations worldwide. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army and as chairman of its Community Relations Committee.



Staff Assistant

Deborah Migneault, MSW

Deb joined the Commission on Aging staff in July 2006. She was instrumental in developing the Long-Term Care Website, first as a Commission intern and later as an independent consultant.

Deb previously served as the project coordinator with the Western Connecticut Area on Aging's "REACT" Program. She supported a team of clinical social workers and a nurse practitioner providing in-home services, outreach and awareness education to persons with Alzheimer's Disease and their caregivers. At the UConn School of Social Work she served on a research team evaluating substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention grants.

Deb earned her Master's Degree at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work with a concentration in Policy Practice and Aging.

Contact Us!



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TODAY AND *TOMORROW*



CONNECTICUT
Commission on Aging

Advocating for Older Adults of Today and Tomorrow

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